1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

HISTORICAL SETTING

I. INTRODUCTION

Historically, the Central-South Region of China cannot be apprached as an entity. The six provinces which comprised the region during its brief existence from 1949 to 1954 present as much diversity and similarity in historical and cultural growth as would any other six provinces of China proper.

Their historical-cultural development divides them into three areas: (1) Honan, at the center of developing Chinese civilization; (2) Hupeh-Hunan-Kiangsi, transitional provinces between North and South China; and (3) Kwangtung-Kwangsi, constituting a naturally defended and economically self-sufficient unit that was brought relatively late into the traditional Chinese complex and has since shown tendencies toward separatism.

In one respect, the six provinces share a common characteristic. Their indoctrination in Communist ideology and their accomodation to land reform have been carried forward at about the same pace. This rate of progress has been considerably behind that of the North and Northeast regions, somewhat behind that of the East, and considerably ahead of the Southwest and part of the Northwest regions.